

During the conference the Examiner indicated that the term "hardened" steel was indefinite and did not distinguish the present invention from the prior art, since the meaning "hardened" steel was not clear and it seemed that all metals are in a way "hardened".

It is respectfully submitted that a "hardened steel" is totally different from a regular steel. The term "hardened steel" is a well established term and it defines exclusively a kind of steel that contains a martensitic structure which is gained through a certain very well defined heat treatment.

Applicant herewith submits the 24th edition of the "Machinery's Handbook", published 1992 by the Industrial Press, Inc. New York. The handbook provides a clear definition of the hardened steel, in contrast to other regular steels.

It is therefore believed that the term "hardened steel" used in the present patent application should be considered as completely definite, and also it clearly and patentably distinguishes the present invention from the prior art.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,

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